

A delightful EXTRA* this month

Curious and useful gardening information based
on a sprinkling of "superstition mingled with good sense"

Apr 77



Old Wives' Lore for Gardeners

MAUREEN & BRIDGET
BOLAND

A copy will be sent WITHOUT CHARGE to every member who takes the main Selection . . . or any book (other than a Book-Dividend) listed in the accompanying issue of the *Book-of-the-Month Club News*.

*This should not be regarded as a Book-Dividend. All members taking a book will receive it, whether or not they have completed their original membership agreement.



Practical gardening tips from old wives with green thumbs

NASTURTIUMS planted around fruit trees will keep aphids away. A little beer in a jam jar laid on its side makes a fine slug trap. Sow seeds during a waxing moon. Cut flowers will last longer if foxgloves are part of the bouquet. Strawberries like a mulch of pine needles. Banana skins improve the soil around roses. And sage and mint are good for cabbages.

Old wives' tales?—well perhaps, but according to Maureen and Bridget Boland, they're also priceless nuggets of gardening wisdom. In this charming volume, for a time the No. 1 nonfiction best seller in London, the Boland

sisters provide a body of useful gardening information. It was gathered, over the years, mainly from friends who were eager to share "the sort of lore their grandmothers had passed down to them." The Bolands tell, for instance, how to keep cut daffodils and chrysanthemums fresher longer . . . how to prevent birds and deer from eating crops . . . how to improve the quality of potatoes and tomatoes . . . and which vegetables and herbs make helpful (and harmful) neighbors in the garden.

Old Wives' Lore for Gardeners mixes common sense, science and superstition to workaday perfection.

"PRO BONO PUBLICO" • *An Explanation for New Members*

AS OLDER members know, every now and then the Club comes upon a book which seems to call for especially wide dissemination—either because of the unusual social or historical importance of its subject matter or, as in this case, because it contains information of practical use to our members. The first of these "Pro Bono Publico" books—as we have termed them—was John Hersey's *Hiroshima*, distributed in 1946. Subsequent ones have ranged from the *Warren Commission Report* on the assassination of President Kennedy to a full account of

the historic moon landing in July, 1969. Over the years, the Club has found that by far the best method of carrying out this objective of wide distribution is to send a copy at no charge with any book purchased during a given period.

Please Note: A copy of *Old Wives' Lore for Gardeners*, in a paperback edition, will be sent to all members taking a book this month, whether or not they are presently entitled to receive Book-Dividends. Those who are entitled will, as usual, earn a Book-Dividend Credit for any book they order from the accompanying *News*.

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